

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/077 W

----- 068673

R 100846Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2092

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2138

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CD, LY, SU

SUBJECT: MAJOR GOC DELEGATIONS VISIT LIBYA AND SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 2332; TRIPOLI 1046; NDJAMENA 2017

1. ON JULY 29 LARGE GOC DELEGATION, HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND MINISTER OF STATE, COLONEL DJIME, BEGAN FIVE DAY VISIT TO TRIPOLI. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS NOT SPECIFIED AND ON RETURN NDJAMENA COLONEL DJIME STATED SIMPLY THAT VISIT HAD AS RESULT IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF LIBYAN AUTHORITIES' POSITION.

2. COMMENT: IT SEEMS VERY LIKELY THAT GOC DECIDED THAT CURRENT LIBYAN PROBLEMS WITH SUDAN, EGYPT, AND OTHER CONSERVATIVE ARAB NATIONS, MIGHT MAKE LIBYA MORE AMENABLE TO DISCUSSIONS OF OUTSTANDING LIBYAN/CHADIAN PROBLEMS, SPECIFICALLY BORDER DISPUTE AND CONTINUED LIBYAN ASSISTANCE TO CHADIAN REBELS. GOC PRESIDENT MALLOUM IN PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 26 STATED THAT HE HOPED CHADIAN/LIBYAN PROBLEMS COULD BE SETTLED CALMLY AND BILATERALLY, BUT, IF THIS NOT THE CASE, GOC WOULD HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO RAISE MATTER IN ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH BOTH LIBYA AND CHAD BELONG. IT MAY ALSO BE, HOWEVER, THAT GOC

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WISHED TO DETERMINE PRESENT TENOR OF LIBYAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS GOC BE-

FORE PLANNED MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS MALLOUM AND NIMEIRI. THIS LATTER CONSIDERATION MAY HAVE MUTED SOMEWHAT THE GOC PRESENTATION IN TRIPOLI.

3. PRESIDENT MALLOUM'S TRIP TO KHARTOUM, HIS THIRD TRIP ABROAD SINCE THE APRIL 1975 COUP (OTHER TRIPS WERE TO CAMEROON AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC), FALLS INTO PATTERN OF PERSONAL MEETINGS WITH HEADS OF NEIGHBORING STATES. TIMING, SHORTLY AFTER ABORTIVE SUDANESE COUP ATTEMPT, PROBABLY CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY PROPITIOUS BY GOC.

4. PRESIDENT MALLOUM HELD BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER RETURN TO N'DJAMENA AUGUST 6. ACCORDING TO INFOTCHAD (N'DJAMENA DAILY NEWSHEET) SUMMARY, TWO PRESIDENTS DISCUSSED FREEDOM OF TRAVEL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, ADDING THAT SUDANESE CITIZENS SHOULD CONSIDER THEMSELVES AT HOME IN CHAD, AS CHADIAN CITIZENS MAY CONSIDER THEMSELVES AT HOME IN THE SUDAN. AS FOR THE CHADIANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE COUP ATTEMPT IN THE SUDAN, PRESIDENT MALLOUM CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD BEEN MANIPULATED BY IMPERIALIST POWERS AND (SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORILY) THAT THEY ACTED ON THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE. MALLOUM UNDERLINED THAT SUDAN WOULD NOT BLAME ALL CHADIANS LIVING IN THE SUDAN FOR ACTIONS OF A FEW. PRESIDENT MALLOUM SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE HAD BEEN FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE COUP ATTEMPT IN THE SUDAN, AND THAT HE HAD SEEN SOPHISTICATED MILITARY MATERIEL CAPTURED BY THE SUDANESE, MATERIEL WHICH WAS NOT A PART OF REGULAR SUDANESE ARMY EQUIPMENT. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT THE BREVITY OF HIS VISIT PREVENTED DISCUSSIONS WITH "OUR BROTHERS LIVING IN THE SUDAN" OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION QUESTION WITHIN CHAD.

5. INFOTCHAD OF AUGUST 7 ALSO CARRIED BRIEF INTERVIEW OF CHADIAN PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI, WHICH APPARENTLY FOLLOWED DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT MALLOUM. CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY STATED THAT SUDANESE PROTOCOL HAD REQUESTED THAT INTERVIEW BE LIMITED TO NOT MORE THAN TWO QUESTIONS, AND THAT A TIRED NIMEIRI HAD RESPONDED IN A MONOTONE TO THE TWO QUESTIONS. ASKED HOW HE WOULD EVALUATE PRESIDENT MALLOUM'S VISIT, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI REFERRED TO HISTORIC TIES THAT MADE IT LOGICAL FOR TWO COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS. HE STATED THAT COUNTRIES WERE IN ACCORD ON ALL OBJECTIVES DISCUSSED AND THAT MEETING WAS PROFITABLE. SECOND QUESTION WAS INQUIRY REGARDING RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND REASONS WHY SUDAN

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WITHDREW ITS COMPLAINT TO THE UN. NIMEIRI REPLIED THAT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY DOUBT THAT LIBYA ORGANIZED AND FINANCED THE INVASION OF THE SUDAN BY MERCENARIES. COMPLAINT SUBMITTED TO UN REGARDING LIBYA WAS NOT DESIGNED TO DEMAND SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA BUT MERELY TO DEMONSTRATE PUBLICLY THE SUBVERSIVE WAYS OF THAT COUNTRY. AS A RESULT OF SEVERAL INTERVENTIONS BY AFRICAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES, AND AS A RESULT OF SUDANESE TRAITORS RESIDENT IN LIBYA ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR

PARTICIPATION IN THE COUP ATTEMPT, THE SUDAN DECIDED TO WITHDRAW ITS COMPLAINT AS A SIGN OF RESPECT TO THE CONCERNED AFRICAN AND ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE. "NEVERTHELESS," NIMEIRI ADDED, "WE AWAIT FROM ONE MOMENT TO THE NEXT A MIXED ARAB/AFRICAN COMMISSION TO SUPPORT INDISPUTABLE PROOFS OF THE LIBYAN COMPLICITY IN THE RECENT EVENTS IN THE SUDAN."

6. COMMENT: GOC IS CONVINCED THAT SUDANESE GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING APRIL 13, 1975 MILITARY COUP IN CHAD, HAS BEEN LAX IN CONTROLLING CHADIAN REBELS WHO TAKE REFUGE IN THE SUDAN WHEN PURSUED BY GOC FORCES AND WHO MOUNT ACTIONS AGAINST CHAD WITH THE CONNIVANCE OF LOCAL SUDANESE OFFICIALS. FAILED SUDANESE COUP ATTEMPT PROBABLY REPRESENTED FOR GOC AUSPICIOUS OCCASION TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE OF SUDANESE TO WORK AGAINST MUTUAL DISSIDENTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. IT IS LIKELY THAT SUDANESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WELL AWARE OF LIMITED CONTROL BY GOC NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CHADIAN PREFECTURES ADJOINING SUDANESE FRONTIER. IN PAST CONTROL OF THESE DISSIDENTS HAS PROBABLY BEEN MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR GOC THAN FOR GOS. EMBASSY CONSIDERS GOC BELIEVES THAT GOS INTEREST IN SUCH CONTROL HEIGHTENED BY COUP ATTEMPT AND THAT TIME THEREFORE RIPE TO OBTAIN INCREASED COOPERATION IN DISSIDENT CONTROL ON THE PART OF GOS. DWYER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NDJAME02138
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760307-0339
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760869/aaaacibb.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KHARTOUM 2332, 76 TRIPOLI 1046, 76 NDJAMENA 2017
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR GOC DELEGATIONS VISIT LIBYA AND SUDAN
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CD, LY, SU, (DJIME NGAKINAR, MAMARI)
To: STATE DIA WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006